

**'The Hill' Dominates Cybersecurity Competition - p. 8****FREE****ALLSTON: Drink the Juice - p. 5**

Friday  
September 19, 2025  
Vol. 12, No. 3  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

**SALUTE!**  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Sarah Drake

*"The urge to save humanity is almost always a false front for the urge to rule."* - H. L. Mencken

**Huge City Budget for FY2026 Recently Introduced**

Mayor Tommy Battle introduced the City's proposed 2026 fiscal year budget to City Council at the Thursday, Sept. 11 meeting. The Mayor's proposed operating budget is \$343,723,103, which includes \$30,417,499 for 60 outside agencies and rolls forward \$7,854,424 in savings from the 2025 fiscal year budget.

"This budget reflects the growth of

the City of Huntsville and our community's needs that come out of that growth," Mayor Battle said.

As the City grows in both population and land space, the budget authorizes the addition of 10 Huntsville Police employees. With three new recreation centers opening in the 2026 fiscal year, the budget also increases funding for 31 new Parks & Recreation

employees to serve those portions of our community.

"We are ensuring we have the best public safety to serve and protect our residents," Mayor Battle said.

*Departmental Funding Highlights of the Proposed FY26 Budget:*

- Over \$18 million in street resurfacing
- New road construction improvement

projects totaling \$29.25 million

- Renovations at Showers Recreation Center and Goldsmith-Schiffman Field
- Road/other projects for Old Big Cove Road, Swancott Road, Winchester Road, Resolute Way (I-565 to Redstone Arsenal), Holmes Avenue and Old Monrovia Road
- Redevelopment at Memorial Parkway North
- Phase I of North Huntsville Greenway

- Redevelopment investments for Choice Neighborhood Initiative (Mill Creek), Cummings Research Park and Ditto Landing
- 2% COLA for city
- Improvements at Huntsville Depot Park
- Expansion of Big Spring Park East

The City Council will discuss the budget at a work session on **Friday, Sept. 19**, at 2 p.m. at City Hall and vote on it **Sept. 25**.

**UWC, Security Expert Honor 9/11 Memories**

United Women of Color (UWOC) recently hosted a 9/11 National Security Luncheon in Huntsville, featuring keynote remarks from Major Asha Castleberry-Hernandez — a distinguished national security strategist, author, and U.S. Army Major.

Castleberry-Hernandez has served as Senior Advisor (Senior Executive Service) in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs under the Biden-Harris Administration; was deployed



to support Security Cooperation and Counterterrorism for the U.S. Army Central Command in Kuwait, Iraq, and Jordan; and is the founder of the Diversity in National Security Network and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

She addressed how the events of 9/11 reshaped American security priorities, today's evolving global threats, and why national security matters to every citizen.

"As Huntsville takes on a rapidly expanding role in national defense and intelligence, it is vital that voices like Asha Castleberry-Hernandez's—women of color leading in national security—are at the table," said UWOC Executive Director Angela Curry.

**A&M Makes Strides in Designing Three Math Pathways**

Alabama A&M University is the first institution in Alabama to offer three distinct mathematics pathways – STEM

Mathematics, Big Data Mathematics, and Life Mathematics – designed to better serve students' diverse academic

interests and career trajectories. Starting this fall, the new pathways aim to provide tailored, relevant, and accessible

routes to mathematical proficiency and career readiness.

The new pathways align with national trends in higher

education reform and are part of AAMU's ongoing commitment to academic innovation and student success.

**Metropolitan Community Worship Center Celebrating 13th Anniversary**

Huntsville's Metropolitan 7th Day Community Worship Center, 1116 Church Street Northwest, will celebrate its 13th anniversary, 11a.m., on Saturday, September 20, featuring the theme, "We've Come

This Far By Faith," according to Senior Pastor Reuben Griffin, Jr.

In 2011, Founding Pastor Bertram Wright and wife First Lady Elizabeth Wright, while employed at AAMU

and Oakwood University, respectively, established this congregation that, according to <https://metropolitan7th-daycomm.org/>, "has been serving the local community for over 12 years. Our humble

beginnings started in a small church, but we have since grown to become a spiritual leading organization in our calling and community."

Christian leadership strategist and Amazon best-selling

author Tim Allston of Toney, Alabama will be the anniversary speaker, accompanied by his wife, soloist Ms. Virginia Allston.

For more information, contact either 256.489.4820 or m7dcwc@gmail.com.

The Valley Weekly

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

Washington Update, Page 2

Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 4

Gloria B. & Tim: Perspectives, Page 5

"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 6

Honoring Our Elders, Page 7

Sunday Lectionary, Page 8

# Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington, D.C.:

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in session. The Senate may resume consideration of the \$1 trillion FY 2026 Defense Authorization bill (that the House approved last week) if it can reach agreement on amendments and shake off a hold on the bill by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY). Still, the Senate's priority this week was to expedite the vote to approve Federal Reserve Governor Stephen Miran before the Fed's meeting that started on Tuesday. The House may take up a 3-bill "mini omnibus" FY 2026 appropriations bill containing the Agriculture, Military Construction/VA, and Legislative Branch bills that will be combined with a temporary stopgap measure for the other nine appropriations bills to keep the federal government open through November 21 ...

**2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.** On Tuesday, the President and First Lady were in the U.K. for a 3-day state visit that included a banquet hosted by King Charles III in St George's Hall at Windsor Castle. On Sunday, the President attended the funeral of slain Turning Point USA Exec Director Charlie Kirk in Phoenix, AZ, and, in related news, last week the White House sent Congress a request for \$58 million to increase security for the executive and judicial branches in the wake of the killing. This week, FBI Director Kash Patel was set to testify before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees and was expected to face sharp questions on his handling of the Charlie Kirk

killer manhunt, the Jeffrey Epstein investigation, and the recent lawsuit by FBI officials who claim they were fired for refusing to demonstrate loyalty to the President.

**3. SUPREME COURT.** Last week, the Supreme Court paused a ruling by Los Angeles U.S. District Judge Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong that imposed restrictions on the ability of federal agents to make immigration stops that the plaintiffs say are based on racial profiling that had barred agents from making arrests solely on (1) apparent race or ethnicity, (2) speaking in Spanish or accented English, (3) being present at a location where undocumented immigrants are known to gather, such as pick-up spots for day laborers, and (4) working at specific jobs, such as landscaping or construction. According to the SCOTUSBlog website, this ruling extended the administration's win streak in front of the Supreme Court to 18 times the justices have granted an emergency request in favor of the administration (although the White House website claims 20 wins) ...

**4. NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENTS.** In the first deployments to so-called "red states," The Washington Post reported on Sunday that the Trump administration has drafted a proposal to activate 1,000 Louisiana National Guard troops to serve in a law enforcement mission focused on the Louisiana's urban centers to last through September 2026. Last Friday, the President announced that he was sending the National Guard to Memphis, TN.

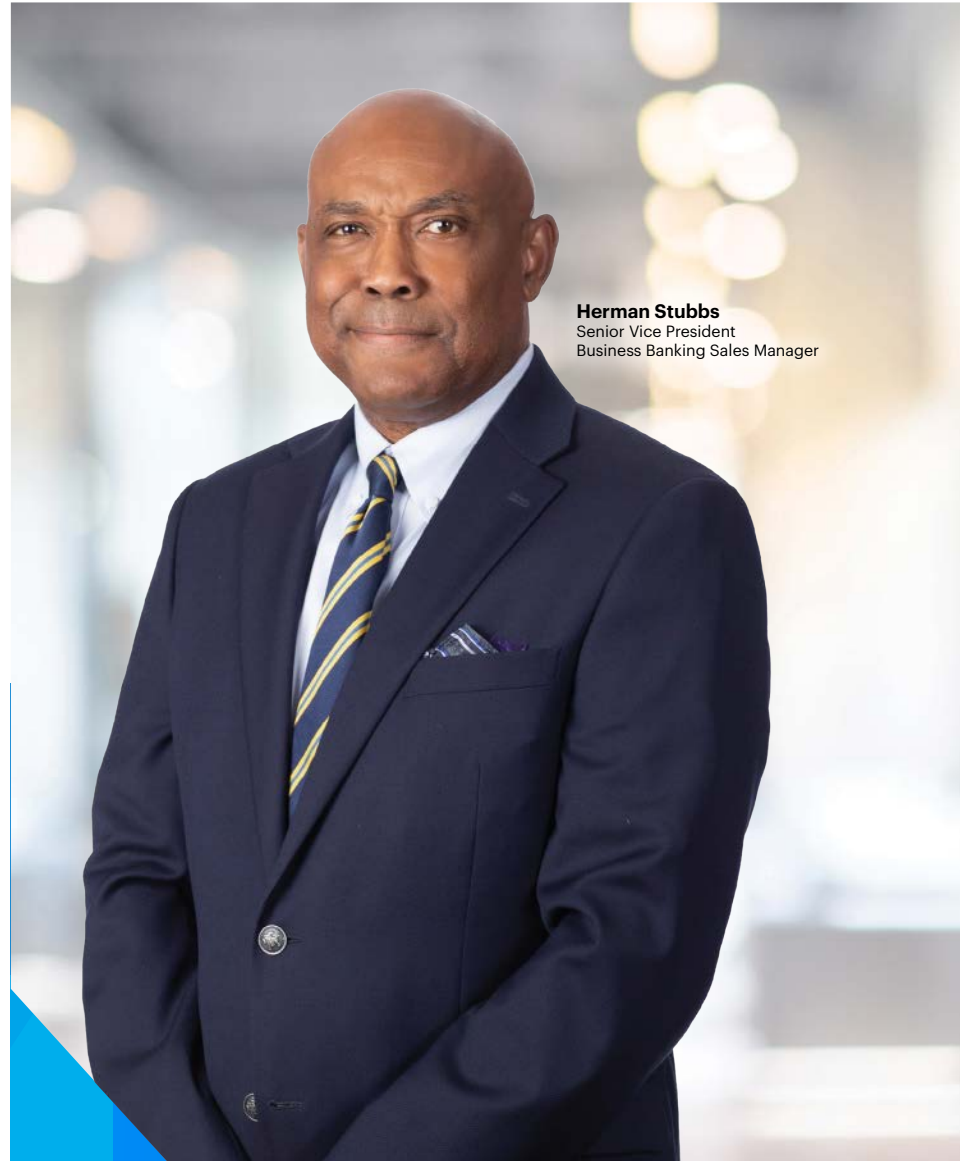
## 5. INFLATION REPORT.

Last Thursday, the Labor Department announced that the annual inflation rate, as mentioned by the Consumer Price Index, rose 2.9%, the fastest pace since January – with the price of ground beef up 13%, the price of eggs up 11%, and coffee up 21%. The Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee met this Tuesday and Wednesday and was expected to announce an interest rate cut. In related news, the administration is appealing a federal judge's order barring the President from firing Fed Reserve Governor Lisa Cook for alleged mortgage fraud.

## 6. HIGHER EDUCATION.

The Trump Administration announced on September 10 that it will cut \$350 million in federal funding for Minority-Serving Institution programs, claiming they violate constitutional equal protection principles despite no adverse court rulings. The cuts affect Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Predominantly Black Institutions, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, with funds being redirected to HBCUs and Tribally Controlled Institutions. University and community college advocates and other stakeholders are now mobilizing to pressure Congress to restore the funding, arguing these programs are essential for student success and warning that the cuts will devastate institutions serving predominantly minority populations while undermining higher education access for millions of students.

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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
Eighth Page		
	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page		
	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

# An Evening of Music, Storytelling and Inclusion at the Orion

It was a fabulous evening at the Orion Amphitheater, one I was both honored and delighted to attend by invitation from Chris Kern, Senior Vice President of Pinnacle Financial Partners. The event featured two of Nashville’s finest professional songwriters, Rivers Rutherford and Tim James, who took us behind the curtain of the music industry with an intimate performance and storytelling experience.



What made the evening so memorable was not just the music, though every note was masterful. It was the way Rutherford and James shared the heart and humanity behind their number one hits—how a single lyric can capture a lifetime of emotion, and how collaborations with legendary performers shape the songs that become part of our cultural soundtrack.

For me, it was also meaningful to be one of the few diversity guests present. In spaces like these, representation matters. Music, after all, transcends boundaries—it tells stories of struggle, triumph, love, and belonging that resonate across cultures. To sit on that stage and witness creative excellence while also being a visible part of a broader commitment to inclusion reminded me how important it is that these opportunities reach across communities.



The setting on stage at the Orion only amplified the magic. To sit in that space, where so many incredible artists have performed, and listen to the creators of beloved songs share their journeys, felt like being part of something rare and remarkable.

I extend sincere thanks to Chris and Pinnacle Financial Partners for not only curating such a unique cultural experience, but also for recognizing the importance of inviting diverse friends and customers. It was more than an event—it was an experience that celebrated the power of storytelling through song and the value of making space for everyone to share in it.

Until next week ...



Dorothy

**SEPTEMBER 19 - SANAA LATHAN** - Sanaa McCoy Lathan is an American actress. From 2009 to 2013, she voiced Donna Tubbs as a voice actress in The Cleveland Show and in all concurrent and subsequent Family Guy appearances. She has starred in many films, including The Best Man (1999) and its 2013 sequel, The Best Man Holiday. Her other film credits include Love & Basketball (2000), Brown Sugar (2002), Alien vs. Predator (2004), Something New (2006), The Family That Preys (2008), Contagion (2011), and Now You See Me 2 (2016). On stage, Lathan was nominated for a Tony Award for her performance on Broadway in A Raisin in the Sun and starred in 2010 in the all-black performance of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof at the Novello Theatre in London.



- Blackcelebritybirthdays.org

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS



## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816  
www.nelmsmemorial.net- (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for **MR. RICKY LEE MURPHY** (b. 1963) was Friday, September 12, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Melvin Allen officiating and eulogist.

Funeral service for **MR. DEVERE CARLOS PRIDE** (b. 1946) was Wednesday, September 10, at Little Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church with Reverend Gregory McGlathery, eulogist, and Reverend Dr. Jerry Crutcher officiating.

Funeral service for **ELDER CURTIS TYRONE TONEY** (b. 1970) was Tuesday, September 9, at Eagles' Nest Ministries Church with Rev. Jeremiah Gardner, pastor of Matthew House of Praise, Pulaski, Tennessee, eulogist, and Elder Curtis Jordan officiating.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35810  
www.royalfh.com - (256) 534-8481



Funeral service for **MS. MAGGIE LOUISE EDWARDS** (b. 1946) will be at 12 noon, Saturday, September 20, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for **MOTHER WILLIE MAE DRAPER** (b. 1923) was Monday, September 15, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church, 1919 Brandontown Road, Huntsville, Ala.



Funeral service for **MS. OPHELIA JONES** (b. 1950) was Saturday, September 13, at the Grady African Methodist Episcopal Church, 129 Gooch Lane, Madison, Ala., with Reverend William Slade officiating.

## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816  
www.serenityfuneralhm.com - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for **MS. CAROLYN ROGERS** (b. 1956) was held Sunday, September 14, at St. Elizabeth Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 104 Perry Street, Madison, Ala.

Funeral service was held for **MR. COURTNEY HOUSTON** (b. 1989) on Saturday, September 13, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



## Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "Getting What You Want"

Proverbs 3:6 says, "Submit to God in all your ways, and He will make your path straight." In my experience, there are two types of people in life—the ones who get what they want and the ones who don't. So I encourage each and every one of you to get what you want. Now the way we accomplish this is submitting our lives to God. I believe everything in your life changes when you make the decision to pursue whatever God has gifted you to do.

You see, God has a plan that is uniquely yours. However, there are so many talented people that never accomplish the goals that they set. Now this can happen for any number of reasons. One of the reasons I believe is, they do not realize that there will be obstacles along the way. Remember the phrase in a song that goes "Nobody told me that the road would be easy"? So, we have to remember that our success doesn't come in a straight line. There will be detours along the way. There will be failures along the way. But remember that failures can be the most powerful tool that we use, if we use it to make ourselves better. Because F.A.I.L means First Attempt In Learning. So, if you fail, never give up.

Whenever we are on our way to spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial freedom, there will be detours. But when we submit to God, He will make our paths straight and our directions clear. So, which person do you want to be the one who seizes the opportunities no matter what the obstacle is, or the one who allows the failures of life to take you off the road that God has placed you on?

*Prayer:* Heavenly Father, grant me the spiritual discernment to pursue the



things that you have gifted me to do.

*Question:* Are you doing the things that God has gifted you to do?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase

a copy of my books, *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com.

## NEXT WEEK:

*"Whose Side Are You On?"*



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## The Holy Bible: *Drink the Juice or Eat the Orange?*

This morning, my *Streams in the Desert* devotional reminded me of something uncomfortable: devotionals, as good as they are, are no substitute for the Bible itself.

### The Bible vs. A Devotional Message?

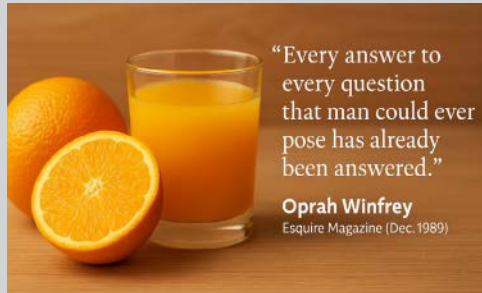
Reading a devotional is like drinking orange juice. It's quick, refreshing, and pre-processed for you.

But reading the Bible is like eating an orange. You have to peel it, section it, chew it, and sometimes wrestle with the seeds. It takes effort—but the nourishment is greater.

### My “Oprah Winfrey Challenge”

This truth came home to me back in December 1989. Sitting in a barbershop, I flipped through *Esquire Magazine's* end-of-decade issue. They asked rising stars which book everyone should read:

- Eric Segal chose his own *Love Story*, the 1970 novel turned into a popular romantic drama movie; and
- Spike Lee chose *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* which, in 1992, became a blockbuster movie.



But when they asked Oprah Winfrey, she gave a timeless answer: “*The Bible. Every answer to every question that man could ever pose has already been answered (there).*”

That statement hit me so hard that I've spent the following decades trying to disprove it. I call it my *Oprah Winfrey Challenge*. And I've been largely unsuccessful.

### Go Ahead, Peel the Orange!

Here's the point: devotionals and commentaries are nice, but nothing surpasses the Bible. As Psalm 119:105 declares, “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*”

So here's your challenge: don't just drink the juice. Peel the orange. Eat the orange. Savor the orange. And let God's Word feed your soul.



### Tim Allston

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# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## Start Again ...

Starting again can be tough, especially when you feel defeated. However, it's essential to recognize that defeat is mainly a state of mind. Life will inevitably hand us hardships and challenges, but we can't let them take us down for good.

If you believe in God, you might see these tests as part of a destined journey. What matters is that we don't stay down—we must get back up and start again!! Even in moments of “failure,” there are powerful lessons to learn. These lessons teach us how to approach things correctly next time.

My Dad would always



tell me, “While you may not know what to do, you will know what not to do.” It's valuable insight! It was good instruction then, and it's good instruction now!

Additionally, getting back up builds resilience.

Resilience is a powerful attribute that equips you to overcome future battles. It's a reminder that each setback prepares you for what's ahead.

Think about it, when you take steps to rise from misery and defeat, you are moving closer to a better life. Any upward movement is progress, no matter how small. Embrace the opportunity to rebuild your foundation and reshape your principles, values, and goals.

Starting again offers a clean slate, and there's nothing more empowering than that. So come on!! You've got this—Lace Up! Let's Go!

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The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**September 19-21**

28th Annual Oktoberfest  
Redstone Arsenal Activity  
Field

Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment  
Huntsville, Ala. - 11 a.m.

**September 19-20**

Tinkerfest 2025  
EarlyWorks Children's  
Museum

Pythian Parlour Ice Cream  
Pop-Up at MidCity  
MidCity District  
Huntsville, Ala.  
12 noon

Comedian  
"Nephew Tommy"  
Huntsville Levity Live  
Huntsville, Ala.

BULLDOG Football  
vs. Lane College  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Huntsville, Ala. - 6 p.m.

**September 20**

32nd Annual Trail of Tears  
Commemorative Motorcycle  
Ride  
Bridgeport, Alabama to  
Waterloo, Alabama

Concert  
Melissa Etheridge and In-  
digo Girls  
The Orion  
MidCity District  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

Ceramics: "Fall Pumpkin"  
Burritt on the Mountain  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 a.m. ([Tickets](#))

**September 20-21**

Monte Sano Art Festival  
9 a.m.

Forest Therapy Class: Forest  
Bathing  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
10 a.m.

**September 24**

Concert  
Lil Wayne  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8 p.m.

Outdoor Market

**September 25**

"Welding 102: Essential  
Skills for Home Projects"  
3305 Governors Drive SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5:30-8:30 p.m.  
[https://theshophsv.org/  
event-6322452](https://theshophsv.org/event-6322452)

Steve Miller Band  
Concert  
The Orion  
701 Amphitheater Drive NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
[theorionhuntsville.com](http://theorionhuntsville.com)

**September 28**

Comedian Josh Johnson  
Huntsville Levity Live  
Huntsville, Ala.  
1, 4 and 6:30 p.m.

**September 30**

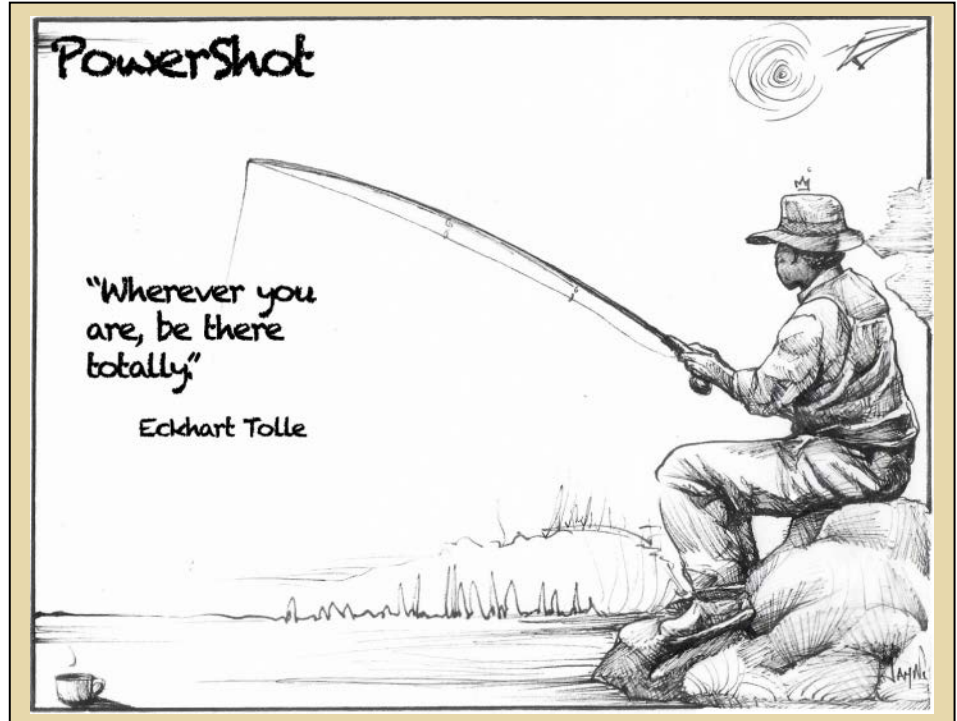
James T. Tatum Memorial  
and Scholarship Golf Tour-  
nament  
Robert Trent Jones at Hamp-  
ton Cove on the Highlands  
Course (\$150/player)  
Check-in: 7:30 a.m.  
Shotgun Start: 8:30 a.m.  
[andyflag0107@yahoo.com](mailto:andyflag0107@yahoo.com)

**October 3-4**

Comedian Daphnique  
Springs  
Huntsville Levity Live

**October 4**

"Fall for All"  
Huntsville Park and Recre-  
ation  
Big Spring International  
Park  
Downtown Huntsville  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.



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**ON THIS DAY**

On this day in Black history, September 19, 1868, The Camilla Massacre took place near Albany, Georgia. The massacre was one of many acts of repression carried out by white supremacists during the Reconstruction era to roll back advances in civic, economic, and human rights for African Americans.





Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Mrs. Sarah Drake

Mrs. Sarah Jean Luster Drake has over 48 years of achievement in developing productive, student-focused environments to maximize learning experiences from two and one-half years of age to post-secondary adults.

Mrs. Drake was born on February 26, 1946, to James and Annie Luster in Columbus, Miss. She is the youngest of five children. She graduated from Alabama A&M University (AAMU) with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and special education. She earned the master's degree in special education/mental retardation and a certificate in psychometrics. Drake began teaching in 1968 as an educator of physically and mentally challenged students in Decatur City Schools.

In December of 1972, she married Mr. Cornell Franklin Drake. This union produced two children, Krynica LaShay and Kyas LaTron, and two grandchildren, Sarah LilyAnn and Melani Miracle.

She transitioned from teaching young students to focusing on educating college students from 1976 to 1993 at Alabama A&M University as an assistant professor for special education and elementary education. While at AAMU, she also served as coordinator of student teachers within the mental retardation department and supervised in-service teachers. In 1993, she left AAMU to continue developing young minds as the school administrator at First Missionary Baptist Church Child Development Center and Academy (FMBC-CD-CA). During her 14-year tenure, FMBC-CDCA saw growth in all classes from ages 2.5 years to 5th grade. In 2007, Mrs. Drake served as a Program Assistant for the North Alabama Skills Center. Mrs. Drake began sewing in 2009 as the program director of the After School & Summer Enrichment Program at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church. She formally retired in 2018.

Currently, Mrs. Drake volunteers tutoring students in reading and



mathematics in Huntsville City and Madison County Schools. She works throughout the community in several organizations. She is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children, National Education Association, Alabama Education Association and countless other organizations. She has faithfully served her church, First Missionary Baptist Church, for over 45 years. She continues to be an active member of the Adult Choir, Congregational Care Layminister, teacher of Orientation Class for New Members, Day Spring Missionary Circle & Missionary Society Children's Bible Study. She's also a member of the Angel Tree Ministry, Prayer Ministry & Witnessing Team.



"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).

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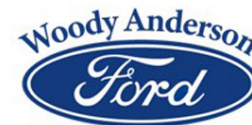
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## AAMU Dominates Cybersecurity Competition

Alabama A&M University students earned first place at the inaugural 1890 Cyber & AI Games, held September 9 at the University of the District of Columbia as part of the 135th Anniversary Celebration of the Second Morrill Act. Competing under the name "25 Hack Street," the AAMU team rose to the top against students from 19 historically Black land-grant universities.

The Bulldogs also excelled in individual challenges. The team won the USDA Jailbreaking Challenge, securing the only cash prize of the day. In addition, Sijan Mainali was the only student to solve the CT Edge AI Challenge, which led to an unexpected job offer from Tom Ben-

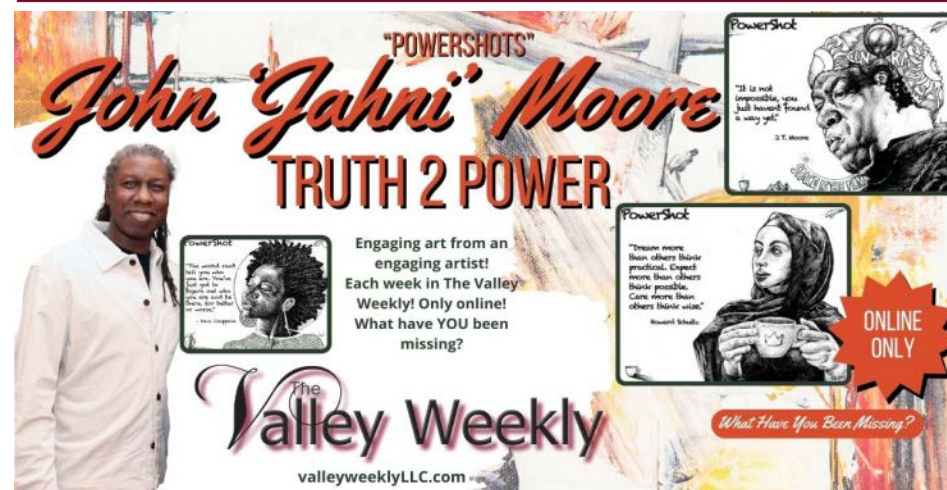


dien, CEO and president of CT Edge.

The event featured a capture-the-flag format, challenging students with real-world cybersecurity scenarios including digital forensics, web security, RFID hacking, cryptography, reconnaissance, lock picking, and even escape room challenges.

Before the competition began, students were inspired

by Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and current interim dean of the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University. Bronaugh emphasized the legacy of the 1890 Morrill Act, which established funding for Land-grant universities serving Black students. Photo, l-r: Sijan Mainali, Charquenta Dishmon, Karyn Rose, Brandon Ramadan, Sydney Fleming



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## This Sunday's Lessonary

Sunday, September 21, 2025  
Fifteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

Second Lesson:

1 Timothy 2:1-7

GOSPEL:

Luke 16:1-13



# Alabama A&M University 2025 Homecoming Events

## DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

**Wednesday, October 1**

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1. Doors must be decorated by Monday, October 7.

Judges will stop by unannounced between Tuesday, October 8-Thursday, October 10.

## BULLDAWG FEST

**Saturday, October 4**  
**10 a.m.**

Let the Celebration Begin! Join us as we officially kick off Homecoming Week with Bulldawg Fest, an exciting night of music, food, and unforgettable vibes on the Quad! Admission: Free and open to students.

## GOSPEL EXPLOSION

**Sunday, October 5**

**6 p.m.** - The Event Center  
*Performers:* Tamela & David Mann  
*Special Guests:* AAMU Gospel Choir, Oakwood University Choir and More!  
Get ready for a powerful night of worship, praise, and inspiration at this year's Homecoming Gospel Explosion!

Join us for an unforgettable evening featuring electrifying performances from award-winning gospel artists and special guests.

## WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

**Monday, October 6**  
**10 a.m.**

Honoring the Legacy of

Our Founder Join us for the Wreath Laying Ceremony, a cherished Homecoming tradition that honors the life and legacy of Dr. William Hooper Councill, the esteemed founder of Alabama A&M University.

This solemn and meaningful ceremony serves as a time of reflection and gratitude for the vision, leadership, and enduring impact of Dr. Councill. Held at the gravesite of our founder, this event brings together students, alumni, faculty, and community members to pay tribute to the man whose dream of education and empowerment continues to shape generations.

## SKATE NIGHT

**Tuesday, October 7**  
**7 p.m.**

Roll Into Homecoming Week with Style! Lace up your skates and get ready for one of the most anticipated student events of the week--Skate Night at Roller Time!

Enjoy a night of music, lights, and fun as we take over the rink for a high-energy, AAMU-exclusive skating experience. Dress in your best throwback Soulja Boy attire. Spots are limited, so be sure to sign up early to secure your place on the list! Sign up will be emailed to students.

Transportation will be provided; buses will run to and from campus for all registered participants.

## EVERY SUNNY WEDNESDAY

**Wednesday, October 8**  
**12 Noon**

Bulldog Spirit. Big Energy. One Epic Midweek Celebra-

tion. It's not just any Wednesday; it's Every Sunny Wednesday--Homecoming Edition!

Join us on The Quad for a high-energy celebration packed with music, a student pep rally, giveaways, games, and more as we keep the Homecoming spirit alive all week long.

## ALL WHITE BASH

**Wednesday, October 8**  
**7:30-9:30 p.m.**

*An Explosion of Color. A Night to Remember.*  
Student Only.

## ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Thursday, October 9**  
**8 a.m.**

Swing into Homecoming Weekend with Bulldog Pride! Join fellow alumni for a day on the green at the annual Alumni Golf Tournament, a Homecoming tradition that combines friendly competition, networking, and Bulldog camaraderie. Whether you are a seasoned golfer or just out to enjoy the vibes, this event is the perfect way to kick off your Homecoming weekend.

Enjoy a morning of golf, great conversation, and reconnecting with classmates in a relaxed and scenic setting. Registration information coming soon.

## FACULTY/STAFF YARD SHOW

**Thursday, October 9**  
**12:30 p.m.**

The Tables Have Turned; and the Yard is Watching! You've seen the students hit the stage;

now it's the faculty and staff's turn to show out! Join us for the Faculty & Staff Yard Show, a fun and spirited Homecoming event where our campus leaders trade in their desks for dance moves.

Watch your favorite professors, advisors, and administrators hit the yard with step routines, strolls, and surprises you won't want to miss.

## ALUMNI PEP RALLY & HOMECOMING MIXER

**Thursday, October 9**  
**6 p.m.**

It's time to turn up the spirit and bring the Bulldog energy! Join the National Alumni As-

sociation for the Alumni Pep Rally at the Dome at Orion—an electrifying evening dedicated to celebrating the legacy, pride, and unity of Alabama A&M University alumni.

## DAY PARTY

**Friday, October 10**  
**3-6:30 p.m.**

This year, we are excited to feature Big Mucci, Tonio Armani, 803Fresh, and TK Soul! Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy music, food trucks, vendors and more! Stay tuned for more!

## PARADE

**Saturday, October 11**  
**8 a.m.**

Line-up: MLK Elementary  
Registered student organizations (RSOs), departments, and community groups are

invited to apply for participation.

## FOOTBALL

**Saturday, October 11**  
**8 a.m.**

The Bulldogs will take on Mississippi Valley State University on Saturday, October 11, at 2 p.m.

## HIP-HOP CONCERT

**Saturday, October 11**  
**Von Braun Center-Propst**  
**7:30 p.m.**

JT, Jeezy, Bossman Dlow, Young Nudy  
Tickets: Ticketmaster

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## Scenes from Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter/AAMU Alumni Association, Inc.

# Coaches' Corner

Monday, September 8, 2025 - Lecture Room of T.M. Elmore Building  
Alabama A&M University (Photos by J. Saintjones)

Chapter President Allen Malone and members of the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter (HPAC) of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., recently hosted several of the dynamic leaders of the University's various athletic programs. The chapter hosted Head Football Coach Sam Shade a few weeks earlier.

Among the team leaders attending the alumni question-and-answer session on September 8 were representatives from the sports of men's basketball, bowling, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

Head Men's Basketball Coach Donte' Jackson expressed his gratitude for a lengthy working relationship with Athletic Director Paul Bryant. He added that his unit will benefit from emphasis placed on focusing, can-do attitude and teamwork. He urged alumni to help pick up the slack in areas involving internships, mentorships, donations and even serving as host families.

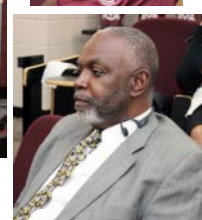
Track and Field/Cross Country Coach Andrew Murphy told AAMU alums that activity "never ends" for team members. He encouraged alums to come out and support the teams in the cities and towns of their competitions.

Tennis Coach Willis Mbandi said he stresses excellence in the classroom as well as in competitions. Alums can be especially supportive, he said, during those intense home matches which call for much cheering for the Bulldogs.

Dr. Brandon Reeves is serving his second year as coach of the volleyball team, which hosts its home games in the T.M. Elmore Building. "Alumni support means the world to us," said Reeves, who added that plans for an "Elite Club" are underway.

Bowling Coach James Moore expects significant improvements from individual competitors and boasts increased equipment support from the corporate community. The team is looking forward to a schedule that will demand travel to Orlando, Fla.; North Carolina and Dallas.

HPAC President Allen Malone thanked the coaches for participating, and all coaches were provided a Bulldog-themed gift from local chapter members.







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